

REMARKS

Claims 2 – 16 and 18 – 37 are in the application. Claims 2 – 12, 14 – 16, 18 – 28, and 30 – 33 are currently amended; claims 34 and 35 were previously presented; claims 1 and 17 are canceled; and claims 13, 29, 36, and 37 remain unchanged from the original versions thereof. Claims 12, 28, and 33 are the independent claims herein. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Office's indication of allowable subject matter. In particular, the Office Action stated that claims 12 and 28 were objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all aspects of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In reply thereto, claims 12 and 28 have been rewritten as specified by the Office Action. Additionally, claim 33 is currently amended to include those aspects identified as being allowable regarding claims 12 and 28.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12, 28, and 33 are in a condition for allowance. Applicant also respectfully submits that claims 2 – 11, 13 – 16, 18 – 27, 29 – 32, and 34 – 36 are also patentable for depending from an allowable base claim.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 – 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lent et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,324,524 in view of Walker et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,336,104 and further in view of Watson, U.S. Patent No. 5,991,570.

This rejection is moot in light of the amendments submitted herewith and the indicated allowable subject matter discussed above.

Therefore, Applicant requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 103.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-5985.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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